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Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

/020 W
---------- 024164
R 050810Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO USS JOSEPH HEWES
INFO COMIDEASTFOR
SECSTATE WASHDC 2668

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0507

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, TC
SUBJ: SHIP VISIT

REF: (A) COMIDEASTFOR 231959Z FEB 75 (B) USS JOSEPH HEWES 191620Z FEB 75.

1. IN LIGHT REF A, EMBASSY HAD MADE INFORMAL APPROACH TO RULER RAS AL-KHAIMAH AND HAS SUBMITTED FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO UAE MFA REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR VISIT OF USS JOSEPH HEWES.
AS ANTICIPATED RESPONSE FROM FORMER WAS POSITIVE, BUT OFFICIAL REPLY FROM UAEG WILL HAVE TO AWAIT RETURN OF FONMIN SUWAIDI WHO CURRENTLY IN ALGIERS FOR OPEC MEETING. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH MINISTRY'S INITIAL UNOFFICIAL REACTION WAS LIKEWISE FAVORABLE, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE FINA
L
ANSWER UNTIL EARLY WEEK FEB 10.

2. DESPITE ABOVE CAVEAT, EMBASSY HAS DONE SOME PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR VISIT AND SUBMITS FOLLOWING -- BOTH IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS RAISED REF B AS WELL AS ON OTHER MATTERS -- FOR SHIP'S CONSIDERATION. (A) SHIP WILL BE REQUIRED ANCHOR IN ANCHORAGE AREA MARKED BY LIGHTED BOUY SOME TWO AND ONE-HALF MILES FROM QUAY. GREY MACKENZIE, WHICH WILL ACT AS AGENT FOR VISIT, CAN PROVIDE BOATS (CHARGES AS YET UNKNOWN) TO FACILITATE SHIP-TO-SHORE MOVEMENT BUT NEEDS ADVANCE NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT. (B) GREY MACKENZIE INFORMS US THAT THERE ARE NO NEW NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS
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BEYOND THOSE SPECIFIED IN LAST ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLISHED MONTH OR

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SO AGO. (C) THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO REQUIREMENT FOR GUN SALUTE. (D) PERMISSION FOR HELICOPTER TO FLY HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN NOTE TO MINISTRY AND SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEM ASSUMING VISIT APPROVED. EMBASSY WILL, HOWEVER, HAVE TO WORK OUT DETAILS INCLUDING APPROPRIATE LANDING AREA WITH RAS AL-KHAIMAH OFFICIALS. ON RELATED POINT, EMBASSY HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR HELICOPTER TO FLY RULER -- AND POSSIBLY OTHER KEY OFFICIALS -- TO SHIP. IF POSSIBLE, AN OFFER TO GIVE RULER, SHAIKH SAQR, FLIGHT OVER PART OF HIS EMIRATE MIGHT ALSO BE WELCOMED. (E) THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO FRESH WATER OR FUEL AVAILABLE IN RAS AL-KHAIMAH SO ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE. (F) FRESH VEGETABLES ARE AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR IF SHIP INTERESTED.

3. RE POSSIBLE PROGRAM, DETAILS MUST OBVIOUSLY AWAIT FORMAL APPROVAL OF VISIT. SHAIKH SAQR HAS ALREADY INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WISHES HOST DINNER IN HONOR OF VISIT AND WE EXPECT THAT LUNCHEON INVITATION ON BOARD SHIP WILL BE WELCOMED, POSSIBLY BY RULER HIMSELF AND CERTAINLY BY OTHER RAS AL-KHAIMAH NOTABLES. WHILE WE HAVE NOTHING DEFINITE, WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS BETWEEN CREW AND LOCAL TEAMS.

4. EMBASSY DCM SAMUEL R. PEALE WILL PLAN TO BE IN RAS AL-KHAIMAH THROUGHOUT VISIT AND WILL ACT AS CONTROL OFFICER. AMBASSADOR ALSO HOPES TO BE PRESENT AT LEAST FOR PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF VISIT -- PRESUMABLY FIRST DAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ABUDH00507
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750076-0974
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750382/aaaacvvk.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COMIDEASTFOR 231959Z, 75 FEB 75, 75 USS JOSEPH HEWES 191620Z
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIP VISIT
TAGS: MPOL, TC, US
To: USS JOSEPH HEWES
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006